

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Objectionable Comments Posted on a Newspaper's Website about the incident of Helicopter Crash Carrying the Chief Minister of Jharkhand

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, yesterday a helicopter carrying the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Arjun Munda, his wife and others, had a crash landing. In such circumstances, people normally express a sense of relief and happiness that the CM and other members on board were out of danger. However, in recent times, when any news appears on the website of a daily readers are allowed to post their comments. But, it is unfortunate that such comments are perhaps not edited or censored and are allowed to appear below the news items for anyone surfing the net to read. These comments are normally, abusive, defamatory and filthy. I quote below some of the comments, which appeared below the news which appeared informing the readers about the crash of Shri Munda's helicopter: Comment 1, I would like to hear this news of everyday 'a chopper going down with a politician with no survivors except the crew. Comment 2, provide a defective copter to all such politicians! We have got a way to save us from them. Comment 3, oh no, copter is dead but CM is alive? Bad luck copter! Comment 4, for personal function, they were misusing facilities provided to him. God, please punish all these people ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): What has happened to the display board? ...*(Interruptions)*... Your mike is not working. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: His mike is working.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: It is strange that responsible newspapers do not deem it necessary to censor such comments. These comments which appear on website cannot be exempted from the laws of the land just because they did not appear in the print edition of the newspaper concerned. It is only because they remain restricted to those who surf the websites and there is no law and order situation caused on account of the comments. Had these comments appeared in print, they would give cause for riots and ugly situations in some areas. It is not that such comments are occasional happenings, but they have become a routine nuisance on some websites. All the high profile national and international personalities are abused day in and day out. If politicians or personalities abroad do not object to it, let it be so. But we have to purify the system and take appropriate steps in our country.

Boycotting London Olympics, 2012

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, with your permission, I draw the attention of this house to the fateful morning of 3rd December, 1984, when 41 tons